

What is claimed is:

Sub A1 7. A printer selecting device comprising:
accepting means for accepting information representative of
a desired number of printings input;

selecting means for selecting an adequate one of a plurality
of printers matching with the desired number of printings; and

data outputting means for outputting image data to be printed
to the printer selected by said selecting means.

Sub OP2 2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein when said plurality
of printers include a stencil printer, said selecting means selects
said stencil printer if the desired number of printings is greater
than a preselected reference number inclusive.

3. A device as claimed in claim 2, further comprising
displaying means for causing a display to show said printer selected
by said selecting means.

4. A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said displaying
means displays said printer such that another printer can be
substituted for said printer, as desired.

Sub A2 5. A device as claimed in claim 3, wherein when said stencil
printer is selected and displayed, said displaying means displays how
much said stencil printer is advantageous in printing cost than the
other printers.

Sub OP2 6. A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said displaying
means displays said printer such that another printer can be
substituted for said printer, as desired.

~~7. A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising displaying means for causing a display to show said printer selected by said selecting means.~~

8. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said displaying means displays said printer such that another printer can be substituted for said printer, as desired.

Sub A3 9. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein when said stencil printer is selected and displayed, said displaying means displays how much said stencil printer is advantageous in printing cost than the other printers.

Sub B1 10. A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said displaying means displays said printer such that another printer can be substituted for said printer, as desired.

Sub A4 11. A printer selecting device comprising:
accepting means for accepting information representative of a desired number of printings input;

operating and displaying means for displaying on an operation and display section a plurality of printers together with printer-by-printer additional information for decision and based on the desired number of printings in such a manner that any one of said plurality of printers can be selected; and

data outputting means for outputting image data to be printed to the printer selected on said operation and display section.

12. A printer as claimed in claim 11, wherein said printer-by-printer additional information include at least one of a

printing cost for a single printing, a printing time, and an image quality level.

13. A printing system comprising:

at least one image data supply device for outputting image data to be printed;

at least one number setting device for setting a desired number of printings;

a plurality of different kinds of printers each being capable of printing the image data received from said at least one image data supply device; and

a printer selecting device comprising accepting means for accepting information representative of the desired number of printings input, selecting means for selecting an adequate one of said plurality of printers matching with the desired number of printings, and data outputting means for outputting the image data to the printer selected by said selecting means.

~~14. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a stencil printer.~~

15. A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein information representative of a printing cost particular to said stencil printer is capable of being freely set in said printer selecting device.

16. A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said stencil printer is registered at said printer selecting device beforehand as an essential printer, and wherein when said stencil printer is not identified at the time of operation, said printer selecting device

~~outputs a preselected message meant for an operator.~~

17. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a multiplex image processing machine including said image data supply device and said number setting device.

18. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a multiplex image processing machine including said image data supply device, said number setting device, and said printer selecting device.

19. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein each of said plurality of printers includes a respective printer controller for receiving the image data, and wherein at least one terminal unit including said image data supply device, said number setting device and said printer selecting device and printer controllers of said plurality of printers are interconnected by a communication medium so as to interchange data.

~~20. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said printer selecting device is constructed into an independent unit.~~

21. A printing system comprising:

at least one image data supply device for feeding image data to be printed;

at least one number setting device for setting a desired number of printings;

a plurality of different kinds of printers each being capable of printing the image data received from said at least one image data

supply device; and

a printer selecting device comprising accepting means for accepting information representative of the desired number of printings input, selecting means for selecting an adequate one of said plurality of printers matching with the desired number of printings, and data outputting means for outputting the image data to the printer selected by said selecting means;

said selecting means selecting, when said plurality of printers include a stencil printer, said stencil printer if the desired number of printings is greater than a preselected reference number inclusive.

~~22. A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a stencil printer.~~

23. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein information representative of a printing cost particular to said stencil printer is capable of being freely set in said printer selecting device.

24. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said stencil printer is registered at said printer selecting device beforehand as an essential printer, and wherein when said stencil printer is not identified at the time of operation, said printer selecting device outputs a preselected message meant for an operator.

25. A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a multiplex image processing machine including said image data supply device and said number setting device.

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~~26. A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a multiplex image processing machine including said image data supply device, said number setting device, and said printer selecting device.~~

27. A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein each of said plurality of printers includes a respective printer controller for receiving the image data, and wherein at least one terminal unit including said image data supply device, said number setting device and said printer selecting device and printer controllers of said plurality of printers are interconnected by a communication medium so as to interchange data.

28. A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said printer selecting device is constructed into an independent unit.

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29. A printing system comprising:

at least one image data supply device for feeding image data to be printed;

at least one number setting device for setting a desired number of printings;

a plurality of different kinds of printers each being capable of printing the image data received from said at least one image data supply device;

a printer selecting device comprising accepting means for accepting information representative of the desired number of printings input, selecting means for selecting an adequate one of said plurality of printers matching with the desired number of printings,

and data outputting means for outputting the image data to the printer selected by said selecting means; and

displaying means for displaying the printer selected by said selecting means on a display section;

said selecting means selecting, when said plurality of printers include a stencil printer, said stencil printer if the desired number of printings is greater than a preselected reference number inclusive.

30. A system as claimed in claim 29, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a stencil printer.

31. A system as claimed in claim 30, wherein information representative of a printing cost particular to said stencil printer is capable of being freely set in said printer selecting device.

32. A system as claimed in claim 30, wherein said stencil printer is registered at said printer selecting device beforehand as an essential printer, and wherein when said stencil printer is not identified at the time of operation, said printer selecting device outputs a preselected message meant for an operator.

33. A system as claimed in claim 29, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a multiplex image processing machine including said image data supply device and said number setting device.

34. A system as claimed in claim 29, wherein at least one of said plurality of printers comprises a multiplex image processing machine including said image data supply device, said number setting

device, and said printer selecting device.

35. A system as claimed in claim 29, wherein each of said plurality of printers includes a respective printer controller for receiving the image data, and wherein at least one terminal unit including said image data supply device, said number setting device and said printer selecting device and printer controllers of said plurality of printers are interconnected by a communication medium so as to interchange data.

36. A system as claimed in claim 29, wherein said printer selecting device is constructed into an independent unit.

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